

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Team**  
**April 4, 2001 – Sheboygan**

**Notes**

**Present:** Bill Horns, Tom Hansen, Terry Lychwick, Justine Hasz, Mike Toneys, John Kubisiak, Matt Coffaro, Pradeep Hirethota, Paul Peeters, Steve Hogler, Brad Eggold

**Next meeting:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, May 24, Deland Center, Sheboygan.

**DECISION ITEMS**

- 1) **Work planning for 2001-2003.** We reviewed the proposed projects and arrived at the recommendations reflected in the attached tables for funding under Objective Codes 18 and 19. Some important points:
  - a) The LMFT had recommending funding of equipment and maintenance costs for the Perca and the Barney under regional equipment and maintenance budgets (activity code FHAD), and Mike Toneys and Brad Eggold had submitted project proposals accordingly. The projected combined costs are \$32,100 in 2002 and 27,800 in 2003. I have been advised that the regional proposals for this activity code do not anticipate these costs. The budget recommendations attached hereto provide for operating costs of the boats, but do not cover these equipment and maintenance costs.
  - b) A number of good projects are not funded under these Objective Codes:
    - i) Spotted musky propagation. This project would allow us to broaden the genetic base of our Great Lakes spotted musky brood stock and expand the introduction program into the Lake Winnebago system.
    - ii) White perch contaminant sampling. This project would tell us if any white perch in Green Bay fall under the FDA contaminant action level, and thus could be sold in commercial markets.
    - iii) Green Bay creel survey. This would be dropped after 2001 under present funding allocations.
    - iv) Walleye projects in the Fox and Milwaukee Rivers. These would be suspended in 2002, but resumed in 2003.
    - v) Smallmouth bass surveys in Lake Michigan harbors.
- 2) **LMFF membership.** The LMFT endorsed Hayward Anderson to replace John Reinke on the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A number of additional items were discussed, as outlined in the agenda.

## Budget planning summary tables for Objective Codes 18 and 19 (Great Lakes and Commercial).

Notes: 1) These tables reflect discussions within the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team, but discussions by the entire review committee have not yet taken place. The recommendations of the LMFT are based on the initial assumption that Lake Superior projects cannot be cut. If reductions in Lake Superior projects are possible, Lake Michigan numbers may be adjusted. 2) These tables summarize all projects suggested for funding in these categories. On Lake Michigan operating costs for the Perca and the Barney are covered by individual projects, but equipment and maintenance costs are not. The Lake Michigan Fisheries Team recommends that equipment and maintenance costs for those boats (\$32,100 in 2002 and \$18,600 in 2003) be covered by regional equipment and maintenance budgets under activity code FHAD.

### Objective Code 18, Spec. Proj. – Great Lakes. (Salmon Stamp funding)

\$353,508 is budgeted for this category and funding source for each year of the biennium. Last biennium, 62% was allocated to Lake Michigan and 38% was allocated to Lake Superior.

Region	Org	Activity	Project	new or ongoing	requested for 2002	recommended for 2002	requested for 2003	recommended for 2002
<b>Lake Michigan</b>								
NE	FHLK	FHCA	Lake trout restoration assessment/monitoring	ongoing	\$19,624		\$19,624	
NE	FHLK	FHCC	Steelhead broodstock management; inc. weir data collection	ongoing	\$10,250		\$10,250	
NE	FHLK	FHHZ	Coho/chinook broodstock management	ongoing	\$16,400	(full funding for all projects appears possible)	\$12,400	(full funding for all projects appears possible)
NE	FHLK	FHHZ	Forage assessment	new	\$3,025		\$3,025	
NE	FHUG	FHCB	Assess brown trout strains	ongoing	\$3,400		\$3,400	
NE	FHUG	FHCD	Oconto River habitat work	ongoing	\$7,700		\$0	
NE	FHLK	FHNL	Nearshore rainbow project, tagging study	ongoing	\$5,000		\$5,500	
NE	FHKN	new	Naturalist for Kewaunee facility	new	\$15,000		\$15,000	
SE	FHSL	FHCR	Lake Michigan sport fishing creel survey	ongoing	\$106,000		\$106,000	
SE	FHSL	FHIC	Analysis of Lake Michigan creel survey data	ongoing	\$16,150		\$16,150	
SE	FHSL	FHSE	Salmon and trout stocking evaluation; inc. weir data collection	ongoing	\$24,500		\$24,500	
			<b>sub-total</b>		<b>\$227,049</b>		<b>\$215,849</b>	
<b>Lake Superior</b>								
NO	FHLS	FHCA	Lake Trout restoration/management	ongoing	\$39,090		\$39,090	
NO	FHLS	FHCI	Lamprey barriers	ongoing	\$18,620		\$18,620	
NO	FHLS	FHFE	Lake Superior creel survey	ongoing	\$35,160		\$35,160	
NO	FHLS	FHIB	Coaster brook trout plan	ongoing	\$13,000		\$13,000	
NO	FHLS	FHSC	Lake Superior tributary management	ongoing	\$4,350		\$4,350	
			<b>sub-total</b>		<b>\$110,220</b>		<b>\$110,220</b>	

# Objective Code 18, Spec. Proj. – Great Lakes. (SEG funding)

\$67,735 is budgeted for this category and funding source for each year of the biennium. Last biennium, 90% was allocated to Lake Michigan and 10% was allocated to Lake Superior, but the treaty-related project (Gurnoe decision activities) was funded under a separate treaty category.

Region	Org	Act	Project	new or ongoing	FY 2002 requested	FY 2002 recommendation	FY 2003 request	FY 2003 recommendation
<b>Lake Michigan</b>								
NE	FHLF	FHCH	Assess walleye fishery on lower Fox River	ongoing	\$4,600	first priority for additional \$ <sup>1</sup>	\$4,600	full funding <sup>2</sup>
NE	FHLF	FHDO	Southern Green Bay sport fishing creel survey	ongoing	\$31,750	fund to extent possible to complete calendar year 2001 survey	\$31,750	first priority for additional \$ <sup>2</sup>
NE	FHUG	FHCG	Assess yellow perch population in Green Bay	ongoing	\$35,100	fund at \$27,300	\$35,100	fund at \$27,300
NE	FHUG	FHAV	Spotted musky propagation	ongoing	\$8,000	request reconsideration with warmwater projects <sup>3</sup>	\$0	
NE	FHUG	FHDN	N. pike habitat improvements-follow-up past work	ongoing	\$9,474	not recommended for funding from this category <sup>4</sup>	\$9,474	not recommended for funding from this category <sup>2</sup>
NE	FHUG	FHJZ	Assess sturgeon populations in Green Bay tributaries	ongoing	\$1,200	not recommended for funding from this category <sup>5</sup>	\$1,200	not recommended for funding from this category <sup>3</sup>
NE	FHUG	new	White perch contaminant sampling <sup>2</sup>	new	\$16,200	request consideration in the toxicology category <sup>6</sup>	\$0	
SE	FHSL	FHCG	Assess and monitor yellow perch population in L. Mich.	ongoing	\$18,350	fund at \$14,550	\$18,350	fund at \$14,550
SE	FHSL	FHJX	Milwaukee River walleye investigations	ongoing	\$13,600	first priority, with FHCH, for additional \$ <sup>7</sup>	\$13,600	fund at \$5,500, or more if possible <sup>2,7</sup>
SE	FHSL	new	Smallmouth bass survey in L. Mich. harbors	new	\$4,350	next priority for additional funding, after walleye projects	\$4,350	next priority for additional funding, after walleye projects
				<b>sub-total</b>	<b>\$142,624</b>	<b>\$51,405</b>	<b>\$118,424</b>	<b>\$51,405</b>
<b>Lake Superior</b>								
NO	FHLS	FHDL	Gurnoe decision activities <sup>3</sup>	ongoing	\$4,270		\$4,270	
NO	FHLS	FHJY	Assess Duluth Harbor fishery	ongoing	\$5,860		\$5,860	
NO	FHLS	FHDM	Assess Chequamegon Bay fishery	ongoing	\$6,200		\$6,200	
				<b>sub-total</b>	<b>\$16,330</b>		<b>\$16,330</b>	

<sup>1</sup> This project an adjunct to significant past and ongoing partner contributions to habitat restoration in the low Fox.

<sup>2</sup> If additional \$ would allow full funding of the Green Bay creel survey, the LMFT would fund the creel survey at the expense of the walleye projects.

<sup>3</sup> This project was initially submitted for funding in the warmwater category, where funding was provided in the past. If reconsidered for funding there, the following points not included in the initial write-up should be considered: 1) The brood stock that will be enhanced by this project will allow the development of a spotted musky population in the Lake Winnebago system, as well as enhancing that in Green Bay. 2) This project is needed to broaden the genetic base of that brood stock. 3) Use of Fox River NRDA money for spotted musky is anticipated a few years down the road, so enhancement of the genetic base of the brood stock now is timely.

<sup>4</sup> This project may be a candidate for funding with the anticipated "CARA Lite" funds.

<sup>5</sup> We hope this can be covered by the Armenise Harvard Foundation grant.

<sup>6</sup> Justine Hasz will also pursue grant funding through the Saltonstall-Kennedy program.

<sup>7</sup> Failure to fund this project would be problematic because of its high public visibility and support. The exploratory stocking of walleye in the Milwaukee River has strong support in some quarters, including money from partners, although it has raised concerns in others. We are committed to studying the effect on salmon if we stock walleye, so failure to fund this would require us to suspend stocking.

## Objective Code 19. Spec. Proj. - Commercial

\$36,563 of SEG funding is budgeted for this category for each year of the biennium. Last biennium, 64% was allocated to Lake Michigan, 16% was allocated to Lake Superior, and 20% was allocated to the Mississippi River. Note that \$143,073 of GPR is also budgeted for this category, but is earmarked for Lake Superior commercial fishing retirements.

Region	Org	Act	Project	new or ongoing	FY 2002		FY 2003	
					request	recommendation	request	recommendation
Lake Michigan								
NE	FHLK	FHBJ	Mileage and meals for LMCFB	new	\$1,500	fund with additional \$ only after full funding of other L.M. projects	\$1,500	fund with additional \$ only after full funding of other LM projects
NE	FHLK	FHBJ	Electronic reporting implementation	new	\$2,075	full funding <sup>8</sup>	\$2,075	full funding <sup>8</sup>
NE	FHLK	FHBJ	Commercial catch data management	ongoing	\$9,494	federal funding is likely	\$9,494	federal funding is likely
NE	FHLK	FHCV	Determine commercial harvest quotas	ongoing	\$5,460	full funding	\$5,460	full funding
NE	FHUG	FHBK	Yellow perch commercial catch monitoring on Green Bay	ongoing	\$12,807	fund at \$9,000 <sup>9</sup>	\$12,807	fund at \$9,000 <sup>9</sup>
SE	FHSL	FHHL	Assess y. perch recruitment in LM; support research and YPTG	ongoing	\$9,000	fund at \$8,178	\$9,000	fund at \$8,178
				sub-total	\$40,336	\$24,713	\$40,336	\$24,713
Lake Superior								
NO	FHLS	FHBM	Whitefish catch monitoring	ongoing	\$8,950		\$8,950	
				sub-total	\$8,950		\$8,950	
Mississippi River								
WC	FHMX	FHFN	Commercial catch statistics – Miss. River	ongoing	\$2,900		\$2,900	
				sub-total	\$2,900		\$2,900	

<sup>8</sup> This funding is needed, along with GPR funding, to implement an experimental electronic commercial reporting system.

<sup>9</sup> If the commercial fishery for yellow perch is closed, this project is not needed, and, for 2003, if the creel survey is not funded, the money would probably be better used elsewhere.